

Appl. No. 10/690,147  
Amendment dated January 3, 2007  
Reply to Office Action dated December 22, 2006

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### Complete Listing of All Claims and Their Status

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Claims 1-4 (canceled).

5 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 4, in which] A hand-operated jointed control lever assembly comprising:

- (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;
- (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface proximate said forward edge portion. said first fulcrum surface and said second fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is engaged under said lip; and
- (c) tensioning means for applying a contraction force between said first fulcrum surface and said second fulcrum surface that biases said first and second fulcrum surfaces into mating engagement; said tensioning means comprising:
  - i. a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces, said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being secured to said lever arm; and
  - ii. [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between said second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said compression coil spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body [, and] with said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially through said coil spring.

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1 Claim 6 (canceled).

1 7 (currently amended): [The control lever assembly as recited in claim 6, in which] A  
2 hand-operated jointed control lever assembly, said assembly comprising:

- 3 (a) a lever body mounted for pivoting movement about an axis from a released  
4 position to an actuated position; said lever body having a rearward first fulcrum  
5 surface and a rearwardly-extending lip proximate said first fulcrum surface;  
6 (b) a lever arm having a forward edge portion and a second fulcrum surface  
7 proximate said forward edge portion, said first fulcrum surface and said second  
8 fulcrum surface being adapted for mating engagement without a pivot axle  
9 joining said lever arm to said lever body when said forward edge portion is  
10 engaged under said lip; said first and second fulcrum surfaces being  
11 respectively cylindrically concave and convex;  
12 (c) a tensioning cable passing through said first and said second fulcrum surfaces,  
13 said tensioning cable having a first end and a second end, said first end being  
14 secured to said lever arm; and  
15 (d) [said tensioning spring is] a compression coil spring interposed between said  
16 second end of said tensioning cable and said lever body, said compression coil  
17 spring being disposed within a cavity formed within said lever body [, and] with  
18 said tensioning cable [passes] passing axially through said coil spring.